

REMARKS

This amendment is for the purpose of presenting Claim 9 in its amended form and is in response to the Office Action of August 11, 2008.

It is respectfully submitted that parent Claim 9 and its dependent claims, particularly as now amended, are patentable over Rinkewich in view of newly cited Dries and Lusignea and further in view of the additional secondary art.

The Office Action of August 8, 2008, differed from the prior Office Action in that in addition to reliance on Rinkewich and Lusignea there is now reliance on Dries. Reference is made to the amendment filed on May 29, 2008, with regard to the discussion of Rinkewich and Lusignea. It is respectfully submitted that the addition of Dries to the hypothetical combination of Rinkewich and Lusignea does not render Claim 9, particularly as now amended, to be unpatentable. Claim 9 now defines, in addition to the prior steps, the feature of the skins being provided on one of their faces near their surface with a radiation-absorbent layer. The core and the skins themselves are transparent to the radiation. Support for this feature is found at, for example, page 5, lines 29-32 of the specification.

Newly cited Dries relates to biaxially oriented packaging films which are provided in both of the layers to be welded together, with an absorbent pigment so that a seal seam can be obtained by laser welding: see column 3, lines 29-32.

This was required to melt uniformly the entire film (not only the layers provided with a pigment): see the next lines (33-46) of column 3; see also the examples where this feature is present and where complete melting is observed (see column 11, lines 37-40.)

It has been observed on the contrary, on a structure provided with a pigment only on one surface of the items to be welded (namely: the surface of the skins to be welded), the formation of asperities at the welding interface, so that a kind of black hooks (extending from the pigmented layer of the skin) were mechanically anchored in the honeycomb core. Such a structure contributes to mechanically reinforce the weld so that very good adhesion is obtained without destruction of the orientation of the rest of the skin, even in the welded areas.

This is not at all suggested by Dries who states on the contrary, as explained above, that better results are obtained if both layers to be welded contain the pigment so that the complete film can melt.

In view of the above it is respectfully submitted that parent Claim 9 and its dependent claims are patentable and should be allowed over the prior art.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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